

## ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, March 28, 2017

Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium

89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware

Phone 302-739-9912, FAX 302-739-6157

### ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Edward A. Montague, Chair
2. Garrett Grier, Jr., Vice Chair
3. Raymond F. Burris
4. Neal Dukes (Absent)
5. Robert C. Nichols (Absent)
6. Craig A. Karsnitz
7. Joe C. Johnson
8. Steven M. Kendus
9. Dale R. Scuse

### DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

1. Director David E. Saveikis
2. Rob Hossler
3. Capt. Nick Couch
4. Joe Rogerson
5. Justyn Foth
6. Emily Boyd
7. Karen Kennedy

### PUBLIC

8 Visitors

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Montague at 7:00 PM.

#### **Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).**

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the February 28, 2017 meeting minutes as written.

Rob Hossler, wildlife section administrator, stated that the Bylaws have been officially updated based on Council decision at the last Council meeting and are included in tonight's Council member packets.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Migratory Game Bird Seasons Review and Recommendation (Rob Hossler).**

Rob Hossler, wildlife section administrator, reviewed the 2017/2018 proposed migratory game bird season dates for Delaware, which included two proposals suggested by the public (major changes from last year highlighted):

#### **2017/2018 Proposed Migratory Game Bird Seasons for Delaware**

(Possession limits are 3 times the daily bag limit)

##### **Dove**

Sept. 1– Sept. 30 (30 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Oct. 17 – Oct. 21 (5 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Nov. 20 – Jan. 13 (55 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 15

##### **Resident Canada Geese**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 25 (25 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
\*No liberal hunting options.\*  
Limit: 15

##### **Early Teal**

Sept. 8 – Sept. 26 (16 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Teal season will be open all day in limited geographic areas. These areas are coastal areas east of Routes 13, 113/113A & 1 from south of the C&D Canal to Lewes.  
Limit: 6

##### **Ducks**

Oct. 27 – Nov. 7 (10 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Nov. 20 – Nov. 25 (6 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Dec. 8 – Jan. 27 (44 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 6 (except coots & mergansers), which may include no more than 2 black ducks; 4 mallards of which, no more than 2 may be hens; 1 pintail; 2 canvasback; 3 wood ducks; 2 redheads; 2 scaup; 1 mottled duck; 1 fulvous whistling duck; 4 scoters; 4 eiders; and 4 long-tailed ducks. The season on harlequin ducks remains closed.

##### **Youth Hunt**

Oct. 21 and Feb. 10 ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Bag may include ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, Canada geese, snow geese and brant. Standard limits apply.

##### **Canada Geese (Migratory)**

Nov. 20 – Nov. 25 (6 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Dec. 15 – Feb. 3 (44 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 2

##### **Snow Goose**

Oct. 10 – Feb. 10 (107 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 25 - No possession limit

\*Bombay Hook - No dates given yet\*

#### Conservation Order

**Feb. 12 – Apr. 13** ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset  
Unplugged shotguns and electronic calls may be used to harvest snow geese  
Limit and possession: None

#### Coots & Mergansers

Same season dates as ducks  
Coots – Limit: 15  
Mergansers – Limit: 5, of which, no more than 2 may be hooded

#### Rails, Gallinules and Moorhens

##### King, Clapper

Sept. 1 – Nov. 9 (70 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 10

##### Sora, Virginia

Sept. 1 – Nov. 9 (70 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 25

##### Gallinules, Moorhens

Sept. 1 – Nov. 9 (70 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 15

#### Woodcock

Nov. 20 – Dec. 2 (13 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Dec. 13 – Jan. 13 (32 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 3

#### Snipe

Sept. 19 – Dec. 2 (75 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Dec. 13 – Jan. 13 (32 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 8

#### Sea Ducks

Nov. 20 – Jan. 27 (60 days) ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 5, which may not exceed 4 scoters, 4 eiders, or 4 long-tailed ducks  
Within the designated Special Sea Duck Zone (not less than 800 yards seaward of Delaware Bay shore between Port Mahon/Elbow Cross Navigation Light and the Atlantic Ocean at the Delaware-Maryland line)

#### Brant

**Nov. 20 – Jan. 27 (60 days)** ½ hour before sunrise to sunset  
Limit: 2

#### Public Proposals for Brant

#### Constituent Proposal #1

Dec. 2 – Jan. 31 (52 days)

#### Constituent Proposal #2

Nov. 20 – Nov. 25

Dec. 2- Jan. 31 (58 days)

A motion was made by Councilman Scuse, seconded by Councilman Burris to approve Constituent Proposal #2 for Brant season. The motion carried with 5 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain.

Another motion was made by Councilman Karsnitz and seconded by Councilman Burris to accept the remainder of the Division's proposed season dates. The motion was approved unanimously.

A handout of the proposed migratory bird season dates was provided to the Council members and the audience.

#### **Agenda Item 3. Deer Harvest Update (Emily Boyd).**

Emily Boyd, deer and furbearer biologist, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2016/2017 hunting season deer harvest. Delaware hunters harvested 14,793 deer during the 2016/2017 season, exceeding the previous record harvested by 112 deer. 1,170 deer were harvested on the five specified Sundays open to deer hunting. Several record harvests were broken by hunters this past season. They include:

- Antlered males (bucks) – 4,729
- Male deer – 7,192
- Kent County harvest – 4,399
- Zones 4, 8, 13 harvests
- Crossbow harvest – 1,613
- Wildlife Areas harvest – Eagles Nest, McGinnis Pond, Nanticoke, Norman G. Wilder, Ted Harvey
- State Parks harvest – Fort DuPont

Handouts were provided to Council members and members of the audience.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Director Update (David E. Saveikis).**

In response to a member of the audience's request at the February Council meeting, Director Saveikis reported that 802 three-day non-resident hunting licenses were sold last year. 1,997 annual non-resident hunting licenses were sold as well as approximately 15,000 total resident hunting licenses. Director Saveikis provided a chart to Council members and members of the audience.

Director Saveikis reported that the Delaware Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus is drafting legislation to allow airbows for deer hunting in lieu of a shotgun during

the deer shotgun seasons. The Caucus is also drafting legislation to convert allowable specified calibers for pistols for deer hunting to a range of calibers. This legislation would also legalize the use of straight-walled cartridge rifles for deer. The Sportsmen's Caucus is also exploring drafting legislation to legalize suppressors for firearms. The General Assembly has introduced S.B. 31 to allow the use of handguns under the Division's severe deer depredation programs.

Director Saveikis distributed a two-sided rack card to Council and audience members pertaining to the Delaware Conservation Access Pass that will be effective on July 1, 2017. This Pass will be required for all registered motor vehicles to access state wildlife areas. Hunters can obtain a single vehicle pass free of charge with the purchase of a hunting license. The Pass can be purchased starting July 1, 2017 online, at authorized license agents throughout the state or at the Division's licensing desk in the Richardson & Robbins Building in Dover.

Director Saveikis provided Council members with the spring edition of the Outdoor Delaware magazine, which features an article on the Bayshore, the customary informative Econote series on wildlife areas featuring the Woodland Beach Wildlife Area written by William Jones as well as our regular articles on hunting and fishing. Montague thanked Rob Hossler and Emily Boyd for their presentations.

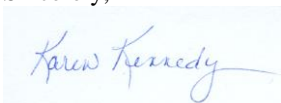
**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 PM**

**AGENDA FOR THE 4/25/2017 ADVISORY  
COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).
2. How Deer Seasons Are Established (Rob Hossler).
3. Proposed Regulation Package Summary (David E. Saveikis & Rob Hossler).
4. Director Update (David E. Saveikis).

There being no further business, a motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Kennedy" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Kennedy  
Recording Secretary